

Message Text

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45

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-11 OMB-01 IO-12

ACDA-19 CIEP-02 NEA-10 RSR-01 /146 W

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R 170918 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1549

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 2112

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG

SUBJECT: TALKS WITH ALGERIANS

FROM NEWSOM

1. FOLLOWING MY COMMENTS ON CONVERSATIONS WITH BOUMEDIENNE
AND ALGERIAN OFFICIALS APRIL 12-16.

2. RECEPTION WAS EXTREMELY CORDIAL; DESIRE FOR ON- GOING
DIALOGUE WITH US OBVIOUSLY EXISTS.

3. SUBJECTS AND SUBJECT MATTER OF ALGERIAN PREOCCUPATIONS
PRODUCED NO SURPRISES. THERE WAS LESS EMPHASIS ON
MEDITERRANEAN ROLE THAN I EXPECTED. PRIME CONCERNS WERE
RECOGNITION OF ALGERIA' S SPECIAL ROLE AS EMERGING SIGNIFICANT
NON- ALIGNED NATION AND PROBLEM OF MIDDLE EAST. UNDERLYING
ALL POINTS OF VIEW IS STRONG SENSE OF PARALLEL BETWEEN
THEIR OWN REVOLUTION AND MOVEMENTS THEY SEE AS
COMPARABLE: AL FATAH, AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, AND
VIET CONG. ANTAGONISM TO FRENCH IN BLACK AFRICA SHOWS
THROUGH.

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4. WHILE ALL CONVERSATIONS WERE CORDIAL, IT IS DIFFICULT TO SAY TO WHAT EXTENT OUR PRESENTATIONS OVERCOME BASIC CONCEPTIONS OF AND ATTITUDES TOWARD US POLICY. I BELIEVE THEIR DOUBTS ABOUT US ARE PROFOUND, PARTICULARLY WITH BOUMEDIENNE AND BOUTEFLIKA, BUT THAT THEY NEVERTHELESS ADMIRE AND ARE INTRIGUED BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S POLICIES. THEY HAVE MADE BASIC CONCLUSION TO ENTER INTO LONG- TERM ECONOMIC RELATIONS; I BELIEVE THEY ATTACH MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO STANDING BY THESE COMMITMENTS.

5. EVENTS IN MIDDLE EAST OBVIOUSLY CONTINUE TO GOVERN ANY AGREEMENT TO EARLY RESUMPTION FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. I TOOK POSITION WITH THEM THAT THEY HAD INVITED ME TO COME, THAT I WELCOMED OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCUSSIONS, THAT WE BELIEVED EARLY RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WOULD BE IN INTEREST BOTH COUNTRIES BUT THAT DECISION MUST BE THEIRS. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE THIS POSTURE. IF RELATIONS ARE NOT QUICKLY RESUMED I BELIEVE CONTINUATION OF PERIODIC DIALOGUE AT LEVEL ABOVE INTERESTS SECTION DESIRABLE. I HAVE, ACCORDINGLY, TOLD FOREIGN MINISTER WE WOULD WELCOME RETURN VISIT BY SENIOR OFFICIAL OF FOREIGN MINISTRY OF PRESIDENCY FOR SIMILAR WIDE- RANGING TALKS IN WASHINGTON .

6 ONE CONTINUES TO BE STRUCK BY CONTRASTING FACETS OF ALGERIA: PRACTICAL HARD- HEADED MINISTER INDUSTRY, MINISTER FINANCE AND SONATRACH OFFICIALS ON ONE HAND; BOUTEFLIKA, ARROGANTLY PRESERVING THIRD WORLD, LIBERATION POPULARITY ON OTHER. AS FAR AS OUR RELATIONS ARE CONCERNED, BOUMEDIENNE LEANS TOWARD HIS FOREIGN MINISTER. DESPITE OTHER FRIENDS WE MAY HAVE, BOUTEFLIKA'S INFLUENCE WILL SERVE TO KEEP OUR POLITICAL RELATIONS ABOUT WHERE THEY ARE. SEELYE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TUNIS02112
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730446/aaaairxv.tel
Line Count: 101
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Aug-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <28-Nov-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980123
Subject: TALKS WITH ALGERIANS FROM NEWSOM
TAGS: PFOR, AG
To: AF
SECSTATE WASHDC INFO ALGIERS
PARIS
RABAT
TRIPOLI
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

